

**REMARKS**

Consistent with the Examiner's statement distinguishing the prior art, Applicant submits herewith two new independent claims, 38 and 39, each reciting a process utilizing an organic base. The format of these claims is similar to original independent claims 1 and 2. New claim 38 recites a process in which a reaction mixture includes an organic base with a tetraalkyl ammonium entity in an amount sufficient to convert boron-derivative functional groups into  $-BX_3^-$  anionic groups. New claim 39 recites a two-step process, the first step under nonreaction conditions in which an organic base is present in an amount sufficient to convert boron-derivative groups into boronate anionic groups ( $-B(X)_3^-$ ), and then reacting the boronate anionic groups in the second step with halide functional groups in the presence of a suitable reaction catalyst.

The remaining dependent claims 40-53 are similar to the prior dependent claims.

In addition to the prior referenced independent claims, support for Applicants' claimed use of an organic base is described on page 3 of the specification (last four lines) and further examples given beginning on page 7 of the specification and continuing through page 11. Specific examples are provided starting on page 13. The use of an organic base including a tetraalkyl ammonium entity, as recited in claim 1, is supported on page 13 (lines 2-4) and in the various examples, e.g., Example 1, page 13, lines 21-22. An embodiment of the two-step process, as recited in claim 39, is further referenced at page 4, lines 4-9.

Thus, Applicant respectfully asserts that the present claims 38-53 are fully supported and patentably distinguish from the prior art of record. Reconsideration and allowance of the present claims are respectfully requested.

Pleas grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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